

What is claimed is:

1. A link manager comprising:

detecting means for detecting what link is installed;

5 managing means for defining a plurality of link metrics indicating characteristics of each said link detected and managing data corresponding to said respective link metrics on a table; and

10 selecting means for selecting a link having link metrics complying with a given condition.

2. The link manager according to Claim 1, wherein said managing means generates a record comprised of the data corresponding to said respective link metrics, for each link on said table.

15 3. The link manager according to Claim 2, wherein when a new link corresponding to neither said record is detected, said managing means generates a record corresponding to said new link and records data corresponding to link metrics of said link and wherein  
20 when a link corresponding to either said record becomes undetectable, said managing means deletes said record.

4. The link manager according to either one of Claim 1 to Claim 3, which comprises:

25 link metric rank assigning means for assigning ranks to said respective link metrics, based on a predetermined preference; and

data rank assigning means for assigning ranks to the data corresponding to said respective link metrics,

wherein when said predetermined preference is given, said selecting means selects a link

5 corresponding to a record having data with a highest rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a highest rank.

5. The link manager according to Claim 4, wherein when there exist a plurality of records having data with the  
10 highest rank thus assigned, said selecting means selects a link corresponding to a record having data with a highest rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a next highest rank.

6. A link management method comprising:

15 a detecting step of detecting what link is installed;

a managing step of defining a plurality of link metrics indicating characteristics of each said link detected and managing data corresponding to said  
20 respective link metrics on a table; and

a selecting step of selecting a link having link metrics complying with a given condition.

7. The link management method according to Claim 6, which comprises a step of generating a record comprised  
25 of the data corresponding to said respective link metrics, for each link on said table.

8. The link management method according to Claim 7,  
which comprises a step wherein when a new link  
corresponding to neither said record is detected, a  
record corresponding to said new link is generated and  
5 data corresponding to link metrics of said link is  
recorded and wherein when a link corresponding to  
either said record becomes undetectable, said record is  
deleted.

9. The link management method according to either one  
10 of Claim 6 to Claim 8, which comprises:

a step of assigning ranks to said respective link  
metrics, based on a predetermined preference; and

a step of assigning ranks to the data  
corresponding to said respective link metrics,

15 wherein said selecting step comprises a step of,  
when said predetermined preference is given, selecting  
a link corresponding to a record having data with a  
highest rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a  
highest rank.

20 10. The link management method according to Claim 9,  
wherein said selecting step comprises a step of, when  
there exist a plurality of records having data with the  
highest rank thus assigned, selecting a link  
corresponding to a record having data with a highest  
25 rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a next  
highest rank.

11. A program configured to effect execution of the following processes:

a process of detecting what link is installed;

5 a process of defining a plurality of link metrics indicating characteristics of each said link detected and managing data corresponding to said respective link metrics on a table;

10 a process of generating a record comprised of the data corresponding to said respective link metrics, for each link on said table;

a process of assigning ranks to said respective link metrics, based on a predetermined preference;

15 a process of assigning ranks to the data corresponding to said respective link metrics; and

a process of, when said predetermined preference is given, selecting a link corresponding to a record having data with a highest rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a highest rank.

20 12. The program according to Claim 11, which comprises a process of, when there exist a plurality of records having data with the highest rank thus assigned, selecting a link corresponding to a record having data with a highest rank thus assigned, at a link metric with a next highest rank.

25 13. The program according to Claim 11 or Claim 12, which comprises a process wherein when a new link

corresponding to neither said record is detected, a  
record corresponding to said new link is generated and  
data corresponding to link metrics of said link is  
recorded and wherein when a link corresponding to  
5 either said record becomes undetectable, said record is  
deleted.

14. A computer-readable memory in which the program  
as set forth in either one of Claim 11 to Claim 13 is  
recorded.

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